



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> :</b> <b>C12M 1/34, 1/20, G06K 9/32, 7/015</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 99/02645</b> <b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 21 January 1999 (21.01.99)
<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/GB98/01916 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 1 July 1998 (01.07.98) <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 9714347.3                      9 July 1997 (09.07.97)                      GB <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> OXOID LIMITED [GB/GB]; Wade Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 8PW (GB). <b>(72) Inventors; and</b> <b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> MAHERS, Eric, Gordon [GB/GB]; 51 Heyville Road, Bebington, Wirral L63 2HZ (GB). JOYCE, Stephen, Cyril [GB/GB]; 1A Woodlands Close, Parkgate, South Wirral L64 6RU (GB). PATEL, Shail [GB/GB]; 1 Westbourne Avenue, West Kirby, Wirral L48 4DP (GB). SWAINE, Derwent [GB/GB]; 92 Appleton Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QH (GB). FOWLER, Roger [GB/GB]; Oak Acre, Ashford Hill Road, Headley, Berkshire RG19 8AB (GB). <b>(74) Agent:</b> KEITH W. NASH & CO.; 90-92 Regent Street, Cambridge CB2 1DP (GB).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> IMAGE ANALYSIS SYSTEMS AND DEVICES FOR USE THEREWITH		
<b>(57) Abstract</b> <p>An image analysis system for automated reading of printed multi-character codes, for example on antibiotic susceptibility testing disks, makes use of an orientation means, for example an underline printed beneath the code, to bring the code or its image into canonical alignment with an optimum reading direction for the code. Automated reading of the codes on randomly-orientated AST disks is therefore possible.</p> <div> </div>		

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